

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A tile for seamless paving structures,~~ An arrangement of a plurality of tiles for a paving structure, each of said tiles comprising:

a plurality of stone elements of irregular shape and different size bonded to and extending at least partially above a backing layer or base, ~~said tile characterized in that~~ said stone elements ~~are of differing shape and size and are being~~ randomly arranged on said backing layer or base and being embedded into said backing layer or base, such that said backing layer or base being when in aligned interlocking abutting relationship with the backing layer or base of adjacent tiles of said arrangement, said adjacent tiles together forming irregularly shaped cavities of differing shape and size extending between the stone elements of adjacent tiles, each one of said tiles being formed with a substantially constant thickness whereby normally exposed surfaces of said stone elements of the adjacent tiles lie in a substantially common plane, and whereby, in use, a ~~grouted joint between adjacent tiles-grouting composition~~ extends irregularly on each side of a joint between respective backing layers or bases to form a non-linear optically seamless joint between adjacent tiles.

2. (Currently amended) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein outer ~~respective~~ edges of ~~outer~~ said stone elements lie within edges of said backing layer or base.

3. (Currently amended) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein outer ~~respective~~ edges of said backing layer or base extend beyond outer edges of adjacent stone elements bonded thereto.

4. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein said backing layer or base is of any suitable shape including rectangular, regular polygon or an irregular shape nestable with adjacent tiles of the same or differing shapes.

5. (Currently amended) A tile as claimed in claim 1 comprising a rectangular backing layer or base having one or more ~~spigot-like~~ projections extending from opposite or adjacent edges and corresponding ~~socket-like~~ recesses or respective opposite or adjacent edges.

6. (Original) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein said backing layer or base comprises a rigid material to which said stone elements are secured.

7. (Original) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein said backing layer or base comprises a flexible material to which said stone elements are secured.

8. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 6 wherein said backing layer or base comprises a cementitious composition with or without a polymeric bonding agent.

9. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 7 wherein said backing layer or base comprises a polymeric composition.

10. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 22 wherein said backing layer or base comprises a plastics mesh.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacture of tiles for seamless paving structures said method comprising the steps of:

supporting on a substantially planar support surface, a plurality of irregularly shaped stone elements with a normally exposed surface of said stone elements being in contact with said support surface; and,

securing to respective opposite surfaces of said stone elements a backing layer or base having a mounting surface substantially parallel to said support surface, said method characterized in that said irregularly shaped stone elements of each said tile are positioned relative to each other whereby non-linear tile boundaries are formed such that, in use, a grouted

joint between adjacent tiles extends irregularly on each side of a joint between respective backing layers or bases to form an optically seamless joint.

13 (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said mounting surface is positioned at a predetermined distance from said support surface to form a tile of predetermined thickness.

14. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said stone elements are secured to a mesh substrate.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said backing layer or base is formed by a flowable castable material adhesively securable to said stone elements.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said backing layer or base is formed in a mould having an upright boundary wall.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein a flowable displacement material is introduced into interstices between adjacent stone elements before formation of a backing layer or base thereover to form grout channels therebetween.

18. (Previously presented) A method for installing tiles for seamless paving structures, said method including the steps of:

adhering to a planar surface in aligned abutment adjacent tiles according to claim 1; and,

introducing a grouting composition into cavities between adjacent stone elements whereby said grouting composition in the region of a joint between adjacent tiles extends irregularly over each side of said joint to form a substantially optically seamless joint.

19. (Previously presented) A method of installing tiles according to claim 18 wherein said tiles are laid on said surface with abutting base edges.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said base edges are spaced and stone elements of differing sizes are inserted into the surface of grout therebetween to form an optically seamless joint.

21. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein said backing layer or base comprises reinforcing material.

22. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 1 wherein said backing layer or base comprises an apertured sheet like material.

23. (Previously presented) A tile as claimed in claim 21 wherein the reinforcing material is selected from chopped fibres with or without enlarged ends, matting or a metal or plastics mesh.

24. (Canceled)